

# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS FOR SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

June 2004



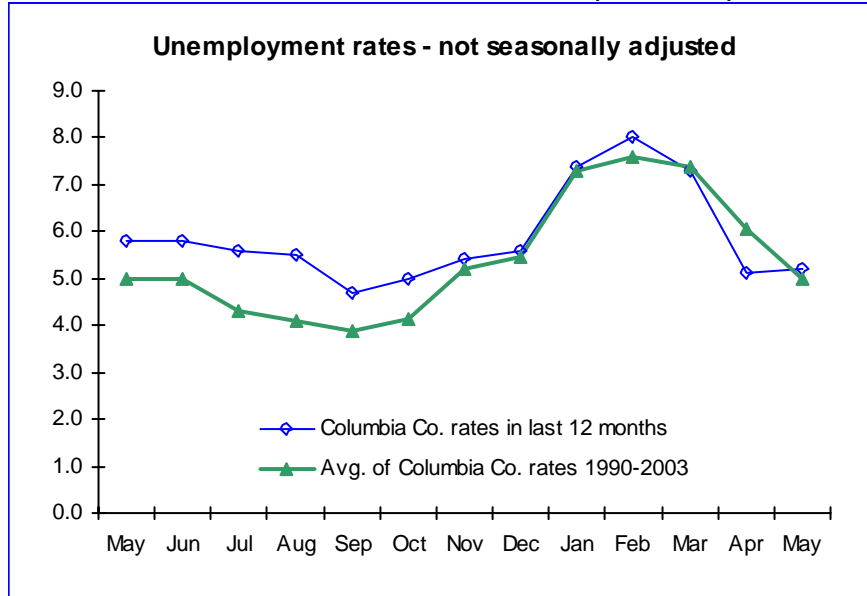
State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

## March and April unemployment rate declines do not continue in May

After two months of sharper-than-typical declines, **Columbia County's** unemployment rose very slightly in May, instead of falling as it usually does. This left the May rate about 0.2 percent above its typical May level, which is lower than last May and about on par with May 2002. Construction and leisure & hospitality are quite seasonal in their employment levels. While both sectors seem to be keeping pace nicely with last summer, construction growth has been a bit more stable while leisure & hospitality growth has been a bit more volatile.

In March and April, the unemployment rate fell faster than it usually does in **Dane County**, so a May rate holding steady (instead of falling as it typically would in May) is not surprising. The rate has been about 0.6 percent to 0.7 percent above typical levels for most months since last August

and remains in that range. The leisure & hospitality sector is barreling into peak season with higher employment estimates than any time since January 2002. Retail trade's post-holiday employment declines lasted longer into the spring this year than last year and the May pickup was softer this year than last. Cool, wet weather may have delayed some shopping.



In **Dodge County**, the unemployment rate was lower than May last year or the year before and was 0.9 percent above the typical May level. This is further above typical than much of the South Central region, but about as close to normal as the county has been any month in the last year except

April. The leisure & hospitality sector seems to be gearing up for a summer stronger than last summer. The addition of about 100 manufacturing jobs in May is

## Labor force estimates - not seasonally adjusted

	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	3,097,800	16,200	37,500	450,800	1,690	2,800	28,900	470	240	287,200	-460	2,600
Employed	2,950,600	26,900	54,400	435,800	1,790	4,200	27,400	410	410	280,000	-610	3,400
Unemployed	147,200	-10,690	-16,890	15,000	-100	-1,330	1,500	60	-170	7,200	160	-790
Unemployment rate (%)	4.8	-0.3	-0.6	3.3	-0.1	-0.4	5.2	0.1	-0.6	2.5	0.0	-0.3

	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Civilian Labor Force**	47,800	340	310	42,500	300	-250	7,000	30	-30	37,400	1,010	-10
Employed	45,500	430	630	40,400	360	-370	6,600	100	100	36,000	1,110	30
Unemployed	2,300	-90	-320	2,100	-50	120	440	-70	-130	1,410	-110	-50
Unemployment rate (%)	4.9	-0.2	-0.7	5.0	-0.1	0.3	6.2	-1.1	-1.9	3.8	-0.4	-0.1

\*\* Includes labor force participants residing in area. Estimates are **NOT** seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

certainly a welcome sign, but it leaves a lot of ground to cover before reaching last year's manufacturing employment levels, much less pre-recession levels.

Unlike some neighbors, **Jefferson County** continues to report unemployment rates higher than 2002 and 2003. The last time the county saw such a high May rate was 1992. Both leisure & hospitality and information, professional, business & other services showed stronger job growth this spring than last. Construction employment continues to follow last year's trends, at slightly higher levels, while manufacturing employment continues to slide.

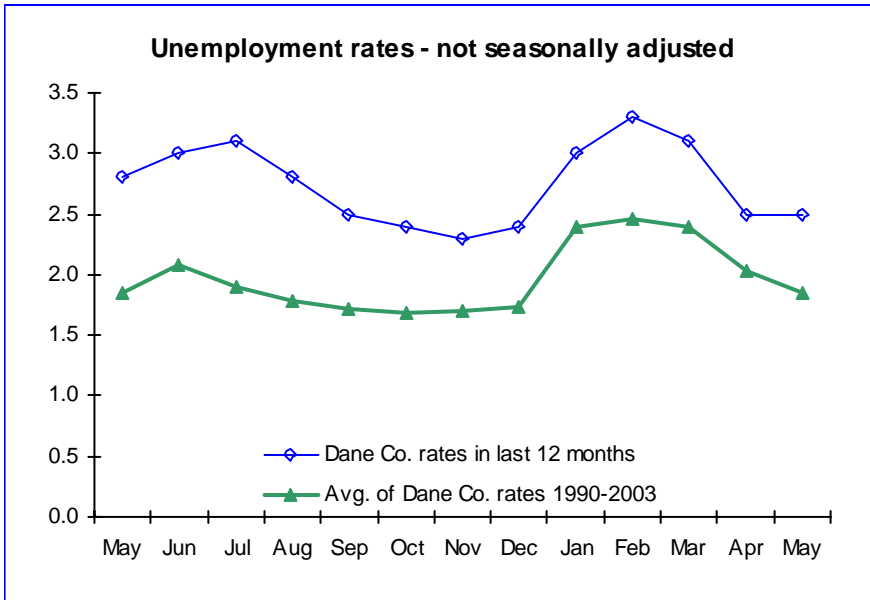
**Marquette County's** unemployment rate (6.2%) is well above the statewide rate (4.8%) and other South Cen-

tral counties' rates, but is still below the county's typical May rate and is far below last May's rate (8.1%). The leisure & hospitality sector spent June through December

2003 below year-ago levels, so January through May 2004 figures indicating higher construction employment than the same months a year ago seem encouraging. Construction employment increases were smaller this April and May than last April and May.

After several months well below typical levels, the unemployment rate in **Sauk County** matched its typical

May rate. Construction and transportation & warehousing continued to follow last year's trends (the former above last year's levels, the latter below).

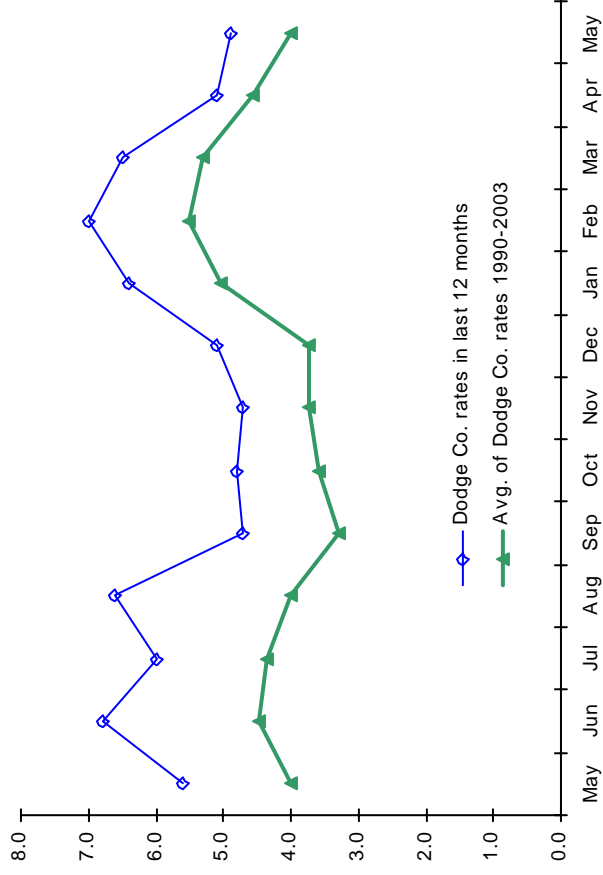


### Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

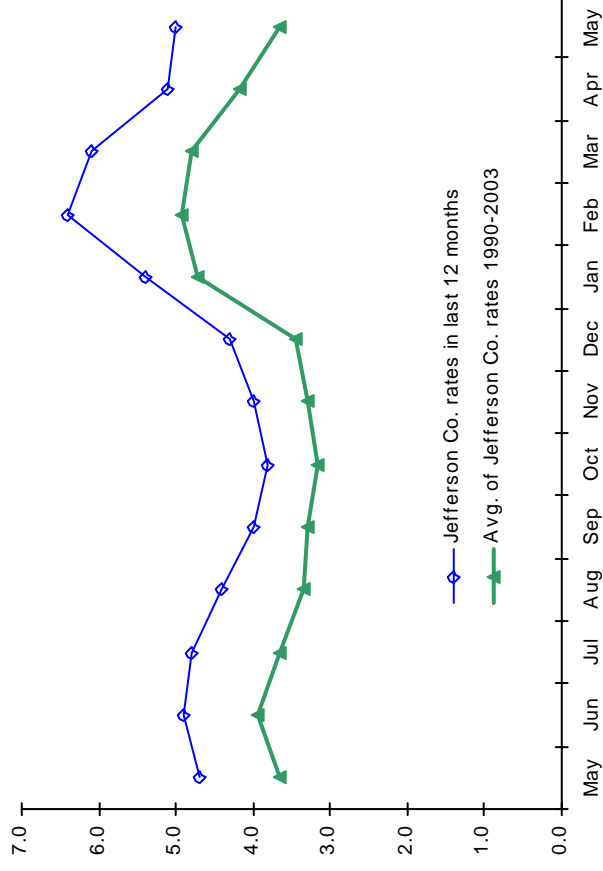
	Wisconsin			South Central			Columbia			Dane		
	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all indstries*	2,832,400	35,200	36,400	429,900	3,800	1,780	21,000	440	160	298,800	900	1,800
Const., min'g & nat. resources	132,700	7,800	900	22,300	1,100	420	1,180	70	60	15,100	500	300
Manufacturing	508,700	4,700	4,100	58,200	580	-830	4,700	40	-110	27,000	400	200
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	439,900	5,200	11,000	62,500	940	-50	3,600	90	20	41,700	600	-100
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	105,300	600	-1,900	10,700	190	-350	710	20	-60	7,000	-300	700
Financial activities	159,400	900	2,400	29,900	-280	620	670	0	70	25,800	-300	400
Education & health services	375,000	500	10,900	44,500	-190	830	2,300	0	0	29,700	-200	600
Leisure & hospitality	255,500	13,300	3,400	41,400	2,400	1,410	2,300	220	180	25,300	900	800
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	436,200	3,000	10,300	65,900	-320	510	1,670	40	60	52,300	-500	300
Government	419,700	-800	-4,700	94,500	-660	-790	3,800	-50	-70	74,900	-600	-500
	Dodge			Jefferson			Marquette			Sauk		
	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change	May 2004	1-month change	1-year change
Total jobs, all indstries*	34,100	510	170	35,400	500	-140	4,000	80	30	36,700	1,370	-230
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,200	220	-30	1,360	80	80	220	20	-100	2,200	220	110
Manufacturing	10,000	100	-260	8,800	-10	-720	1,230	0	30	6,400	60	30
Trade (w wholesale & retail)	4,200	70	130	6,000	100	40	480	20	0	6,600	60	-140
Transport, Wrhsing, Utilities	1,000	10	0	1,210	-10	-50	60	0	0	720	60	-40
Financial activities	840	0	10	960	10	40	150	10	10	1,470	10	90
Education & health services	4,300	20	200	4,500	10	10	290	0	0	3,300	-20	20
Leisure & hospitality	2,600	170	180	3,500	210	250	450	40	20	7,300	880	-20
Info, prof, bus. & other srvcs	3,500	-10	0	4,900	90	310	230	0	20	3,300	60	-170
Government	5,500	-70	-60	4,100	30	-90	870	-20	40	5,300	50	-120

\*Includes jobs with employers in area. Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary and subject to revision. Numbers 2,000 and greater are rounded to nearest 100. Numbers under 2,000 are rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations are based on unrounded numbers. Results are rounded. For more information call (608) 242-4885 or email dan.barroilhet@dwd.state.wi.us.

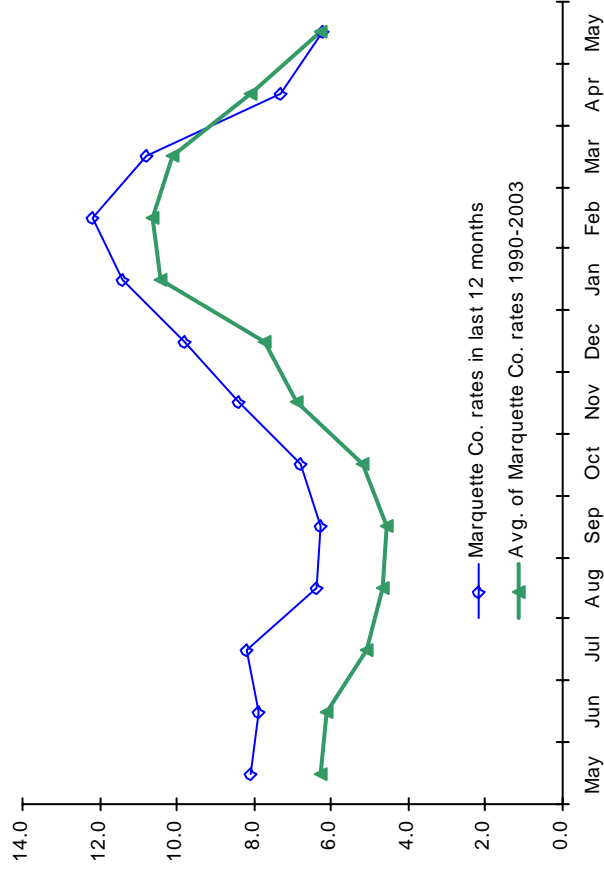
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